

THE CLAIMS

1. A treatment system for providing the heat therapy for a wide variety of medical conditions, said treatment system comprising a holding and supporting member constructed for

- A. cooperating with a heat delivering patch or exothermic pad for enabling the application of heat directly to a precisely desired location;
- B. being securely retained on a portion of the human body in engagement with the heat delivery patch/pad; and
- C. being formed from foamed plastic material to provide controlled heat retention and airflow transmission;

whereby a treatment system is realized which is capable of being secured to any desired part of the human body to provide therapeutic heat to any desired site in a precisely controlled manner.

2. The treatment system defined in Claim 1, wherein said system produces a heat gradient for improving and enhancing the penetration of systemic and topical medications.

3. The treatment system defined in Claim 2, wherein said systemic and topical medications comprise one selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids, chemotherapeutic agents, anesthetics, antihistamines, anti-infectives, anti-bacterials, anti-parasitics, anti-viral agents, anti-oxidants, immunomodulators, keratolytics, and anti-neoplastics.

4. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein said corticosteroids are further defined as comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of hydrocortisone, triamcinolone, betamethasone, and any other steroids commonly used in topical applications to the skin.

5. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the chemotherapeutic agents comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of 5FU, Bleomycin, acytotoxic agents.

6. The treatment system define din Claim 3, wherein the anesthetics comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, prilocaine, and pramoxine.

7. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the antihistamines comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of diphenhydramine and its salts.

8. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the anti-infectives or anti-fungals comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of clotrimazole and ciclopirox.

9. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the anti-bacterials comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of gentamicin, tetracycline, erythromycin, and clindamycin.

10. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the anti-parasitics comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of metronidazole, permethrin, and crotamiton.

11. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the anti-virals comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of acyclovir.

12. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the antioxidants comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and tocopherol.

13. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the immunomodulators comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of imiquimod and beta glucan.

14. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the keratolytics comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of salicylic acid.

15. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein the anti-neoplastics comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of cytotoxic agents and immunomodulators.

16. The treatment system defined in Claim 3, wherein said system further comprises a skin enhancing agent incorporating therewith for benefitting from the heat gradient.

17. The treatment system defined in Claim 16, wherein said skin penetration enhancing agent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of solvents, surfactants, ethers, esters, fatty acid glycerides, urea, oleates, liposomes, retinoids, and occlusive compounds.

18. The treatment system defined in Claim 1, wherein said holding member comprises a hollow, continuous, generally cylindrically shaped member.

19. The treatment system defined in Claim 18, wherein said holding member comprises a diameter configured for secure, surrounding engagement with a particular part of the human anatomy.

20. The treatment system defined in Claim 19, wherein the holding member is constructed for mounting securement to one body part selected from the group consisting of fingers, arms, elbows, toes, feet, legs, wrists, ankles, and the upper torso.

21. The treatment system defined in Claim 18, wherein said hollow cylindrical shape comprises one selected from the group consisting of regular cylinders and truncated cones.

22. The treatment system defined in Claim 21, and further comprising an elongated strap member for enabling tightening of the holding member in the desired location.

23. The treatment system defined in Claim 1, wherein said holding and supporting member comprises an elongated, substantially planar construction incorporating fastening means for securing said member in any desired location.

24. The treatment system defined in Claim 23, wherein said fastening means is defined as comprising one selected from the group consisting of adhesives and hook and loop fasteners.

25. The treatment system defined in Claim 1, wherein said holding and supporting member is further defined as being formed from thermoplastic elastomeric materials.

26. The treatment system defined in Claim 25, wherein said thermoplastic elastomeric material is defined as comprising one selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, polyolefins, polybutylenes, polyethylenes, polyesters, ethylene-propylene rubbers, polypropylenes, silicones, and vinyl-based resins.